

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Office Action dated March 1, 2004, claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejections of claims 1-20.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-11, 13-15, 17, and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Gordbegli* (4,460,944). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 1 and 14 are the only independent claims in the application. Both claims 1 and 14 are apparatus claims that each have similar limitations. Claim 1 includes a boot housing that is formed of an electrically charged dissipative material. The housing is sized to receive the connector therein. The boot housing comprises a floor portion contacting the connector contacts. A retainer is positioned on the housing for retaining a ground wire in contact with the housing. As mentioned in the application in paragraph 47, various circuits are sensitive to contamination and electrostatic discharge. The present invention allows the connector housing itself to route static discharge to a ground wire so that charge is dissipated from the connector.

The *Gordbegli* reference fails to teach or suggest many of the features in the present claims. The *Gordbegli* reference is directed to a heat sensitive pool light. The *Gordbegli* reference does not refer to electrical connectors as recited in the present application. In the preamble of claim 1, a connector cap assembly is recited for mechanically and electrically coupling to a connector having connector contacts. The Examiner has not pointed to any portion of the *Gordbegli* reference that has a connector and connector contacts. However, because those limitations are recited in the preamble, they are not considered to be limiting. The first element of claim 1 is a boot housing formed of electrically charged dissipative material. The metal housing 18 is described in the reference as a metal housing. Arguably, this is a charge dissipative material. However, such material is merely used to dissipate heat as described in Col. 2, lines 2 and 3 of the reference. The housing as recited in claim 1 is sized to receive a connector therein. No teaching or suggestion is found in *Gordbegli* for a connector or that the housing is sized to receive a connector therein.

Further, claim 1 also recites that the boot housing comprises a floor portion contacting said connector contacts. The Examiner merely mentions that a floor portion

exists without pointing to any specific citation or figure. Applicants respectfully submit that this portion of the claim is also not illustrated in the *Gordbegli* reference.

Further, although a ground wire 22 is illustrated in the *Gordbegli* reference, a retainer positioned on the housing for retaining a ground wire in contact with the housing is not taught or suggested. It appears that the ground wire in Fig. 3 is merely coupled to a portion of the circuit. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of claim 1 since each and every one of the elements is not found in the *Gordbegli* reference.

Likewise, independent claim 14 has similar limitations and recites the connector in the body of the claim. As mentioned above, a connector having connector contacts is not taught or suggested in the *Gordbegli* reference. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of claims 1 and 14.

Likewise, claims 3-4, 6-11, 13, 15, 17, and 19-20 are dependent upon claim 1 and are also believed to be allowable for the same reasons set forth above.

Claims 5 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gordbegli*. Claims 5 and 16 are dependent upon claims 1 and 14, respectively. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider claims 5 and 16 for the same reasons set forth above.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gordbegli* in view of *Feng* (6,046,908). Applicants respectfully traverse. Claim 2 is dependent upon claim 1. The elements missing from the *Gordbegli* reference are not taught or suggested in the *Feng* reference. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of claim 2.

Applicants respectfully believe that all rejections are overcome. Should the Examiner have any further questions or comments, the Examiner is directed to contact the undersigned directly.

Please charge any fees required in the filing of this amendment to deposit account 50,2401.

Respectfully submitted,



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